

Ninam language

Yanam, or **Ninam**, is a Yanomaman language spoken in Roraima, Brazil (800 speakers) and southern Venezuela near the Mucajai, upper Uraricaá, and Paragua rivers.

Contents

Synonymy

Regional variation

Phonology

References

External links

Synonymy

Yanam is also known by the following names: *Ninam*, *Yanam–Ninam*, *Xirianá*, *Shiriana Casapare*, *Kasrapai*, *Jawaperi*, *Crichana*, *Jawari*, *Shiriana*, *Eastern Yanomaman*.

Regional variation

Gordon (2009) reports 2 main varieties (Northern, Southern). Kaufman (1994) reports 3:

- Yanam** (a.k.a. Northern Yanam/Ninam (Xiliana, Shiriana, Uraricaa-Paragua))
- Ninam** (a.k.a. Southern Yanam/Ninam (Xilixana, Shirishana, Mukajai))
- Jawarib**

The name Jawari is shared with Yaroamë.

Phonology

Yanam has seven base vowels: /a, e, ə, i, ɨ, o, u/. Yanam has both vowel length and nasalization, and both features can occur simultaneously, for all vowels except for /ɨ/.^[4]

Yanam	
Ninam	
Native to	Brazil, Venezuela
Native speakers	800 in Brazil (2010) ^[1] 100 in Venezuela (no date) ^[2] including 430 Yaroamë (2015)
Language family	Yanomam Yanam
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	shb
Glottolog	nina1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/nina1238) ^[3]

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar		Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
		plain	aspirated				
Stop	p	t	t ^h			k	
Affricate				tʃ			
Fricative		s		ʃ			h
Nasal	m	n					
Approximant					j		
Flap		r					

References

1. Yanam (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/shb/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
 2. Ninam at *Ethnologue* (10th ed., 1984). Note: Data may come from the 9th edition (1978).
 3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ninam" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nina1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
 4. "SAPhon – South American Phonological Inventories" (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~saphon>). *linguistics.berkeley.edu*. Retrieved 2018-08-14.
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External links

- Ninam (Shirishana variety) (<https://ids.clld.org/contributions/252>) (Intercontinental Dictionary Series)

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